

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 ORM-02 AID-05 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /097 W

-----041229Z 021159 /10

R 040730Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9557

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USUN NY 401

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS GABORONE 0534

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652 N/A

TAGS PFOR, SREF, EAID, BC, UN

SUBJECT FARAH MISSION CONCLUDES VISIT TO BOTSWANA

SUMMARY: FARAH MISSION HAS DEPARTED BOTSWANA AFTER 11-DAY STAY WHICH INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA AND OTHER GOB OFFICIALS REGU REFUGEES AND VILLAGERS IN NORTHERN BORDER AREA. SEPTTEL REPORTS OUR PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF MISSION. END SUMMARY.

1. UNITED NATIONS FACT - FINDING MISSION, HEADED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL FARAH,ARRIVED IN BOTSWANA FEBRUARY 17. THE MISSION, WHICH HAD EARLIER VISITED LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND, CAME HERE IN RESPONSE TO JANUARY SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH CALLED FR AN INTERNATIONAL AID PROGRAM TO BOTSWANA. MISSION WAS DEVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS: ECONOMIC TEAM EXAMINED BORDER PROBLEMS WITH RHODESIA AND RESULTANT NEED FOR BOTSWANA TO DIVERT FUNDS FROM DEVELOPMENT TO MILITARY USES, REFUGEE TEAM STUDIED BURGEONING REFUGEE SITUATION HERE WHICH HAS TAXED BOTWSANA S MEAGER RESOURCES.

2. MISSION MET WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA MORNING OF FEB. 18. LATER THAT DAY, FARAH AND ECONOMIC TEAM, ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND INFORMATION D.K. KWELAGONE, TRAVELLED TO FRANCISTOWN AND NORTHERN BORDER TO ASSESS MILITARY/REFUGEE SITUATION FIRSTHAND. MISSION EXPRESSED CONCERN AT CONDITIONS IN FRANCISTOWN  
FRANCISTOWN REFUGEE CANP. IN ADDITION , TEAM VISITED POLICE MOBILE UNIT CAMP AND FRANCISTOWN TO SEE BODY OF WHITE RHODESIAN SOLDIER KILLED THAT DAY INSIDE BOTSWANA.

3. ALSO IN FRANCISTOWN, GROUP SAW BOMBED-OUT NKOMO ANC HEADQUARTERS AND MET WITH RHODESIAN NATIONALIST REPRESENTATIVES WHO URGED THAT UN BEGIN TO ASSIST DIRECTLY RHODESIAN REFUGEES. UNHCR HITHERTO HAS MAINTAINED THAT RHODESIANS ARE BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY AND HAS LIMITED ITSELF TO ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING OF EXISTING FRANCISTOWN CAMP. LATER MISSION MEMBERS DROVE ALONG BOTSWAN-RHODESIAN BORDER TO MEET VILLAGERS AND EXAMIND HOMES AND OTHER BUILDINGS REPORTEDLY DESTROYED BY RHODESIAN TROOPS.

4. MISSION REFUGEE TEAM, LED BY UNHCR'S F.J. HOMANN-HERIMBERG, REMAINED IN GABORONE TO MEET WITH BOTSWANA COUNCIL FOR REFUGEESN SOWETO STUDENTS AND OTHERS (SEPTEL).

5. PRESIDENT KHAMA HONORED GROUP WITH RECEPTION AT STATE HOUSE EVENING FEB23. MISSION SPENT LAST FEW DAYS OF STAY HERE SIGHTSEEING IN AND AROUND GABORONE BEFORE DEPARTING FEB. 28.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009